



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

United States Patent and Trademark Office

Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/728,447	12/04/2003	Mark James Beckman	PA1.677	9366
41953	7590	03/21/2008		
LAW OFFICE OF JOHN E. HALAMKA				
P. O. BOX 207				
PALOS VERDES ESTATES, CA 90274				
EXAMINER				
KUMAR, RAKESH				
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
3651				
MAIL DATE		DELIVERY MODE		
03/21/2008		PAPER		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/728,447

Applicant(s)

BECKMAN, MARK JAMES

Examiner

RAKESH KUMAR

Art Unit

3651

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 31 December 2007.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12, 21-28 and 32 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) 1-12, 21-28 and 32 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 04 January 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

Final Rejection

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-6, 25 and 32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kaufman (US 6,247,612).

Referring to claims 1,3,4,25 and 32. Kaufman discloses a process for the assembly and the dispensing of a refrigerated beverage container wherein, transporting filled and capped beverage containers (Figure 5) and preconfigured products to a site of said vending machine for the purpose of performing maintenance function (loading the containers) of said vending machine (Col. 4 line 65-Col. 5 line 10); and, performing maintenance function including the replenishment (loading the containers) of said vending machine internal storage rack compartments (30) with said combination of beverage and article (shirts; Figure 6) configured assembled as a unit (Col. 4 line 65-Col. 5 line 10); replenishment comprising the steps of;

selection of said filled beverage container and said preconfigured article (shirt; Figure 10) as a unit with a retaining device (256; Figure 10) and inserting said unit into an empty product storage rack compartment (see Figure 1); and,

setting a price point (36; Figure 1) for the said product storage rack compartment (30), the contents to be dispensed from said product storage rack compartment (30) to said consumer assessable area (28) for pickup by the consumer upon the condition of the consumer inserting sufficient currency (24) into said vending machine (10) as established by said set price point (36) and entering a selection of the contents (26) of said product storage rack compartment (30) thereby releasing and dispensing into said consumer accessible area (28) said selected stored unit of a combined beverage container and article container thereafter said beverage and article being easily removed from said consumer accessible area (28) as a unit (Figure 10) and thereafter separated by removal of said retainer device (256) by said consumer (Figure 8) for consumption of said beverage and article.

Kaufman does not disclose the container unit as comprising a beverage and a snack product.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made, to modify the teachings of Kaufman to replace the free T-shirt provided along this the beverage container with a snack product because it would provide a greater selection for the consumers.

Regarding to claims 2,5 and 6. See claim rejection 1. Kaufman discloses the number and arrangement of the promotional item loaded in the storage compartment are determined by a person loading the item in to the storage compartment.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made, to modify the teachings of Kaufman such that the assembly of the beverage and the promotional items is performed at the site of the vending machine in stead of being preconfigured because the operator would be better able to determine which type of promotional snacks are being consumed at certain vending machine sites.

Claims 7, 10 and 21-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kaufman as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Beckman (US 2005/0118309A.)

Regarding to claims 7,10, 25 and 26. Kaufman discloses all claimed limitations of claim 7 however Kaufman does not disclose a limiting disk as a retaining device beverage cap.

Beckman discloses a snack package adapted for a bottle (Figure 7) wherein a retaining device is fabricated of a limiting disk (inside wall of 32 resting above cap 16) and a beverage cap attachment (58) mounted to one side of said limiting disk, limiting disk positioned to prevent said preconfigured snack from disengagement over said cap (18) until said retaining device is detached from said beverage cap (18).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made, to modify the teachings of Kaufman to include a limiting disk engaged over the beverage cap as taught by Beckman because the limiting disk would effectively retain the snack article attached to the beverage container.

Regarding claims 21,22,23 and 24. The vending machine of Kaufman is refrigerated.

Claims 8,9,11,12 and 27-29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kaufman in view of Beckman as applied to claim 7 above, and further in view of Singer (US 6,085,919).

Regarding to claims 8,9,11,12 and 27-29. Kaufman in view of Beckman disclose all claimed limitations of claim 8 however, Kaufman in view of Beckman do not disclose the beverage cap attachment comprising a plurality of retaining rings. Singer further discloses flexible fingers (412) used to retain the limiting disk on the bottle.

Singer a beverage cap attachment (411; Figure 7) comprising a plurality of retaining rings (416).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the teachings of Kaufman in view of Beckman to include plurality of rings disposed of the cap attachment at taught by Singer because the articles could selectively be assembled and disassembled from the beverage container by the consumer.

Response to Arguments

The indicated allowability of claims 7-12, 21-24 and 26-28 are withdrawn in view of the newly discovered reference(s) to Beckman and Singer. Rejections based on the newly cited reference(s) follow. See rejections above.

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-12, 21-28 and 32 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection. See modified rejections above.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to RAKESH KUMAR whose telephone number is (571)272-8314. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00AM - 4:30PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Gene Crawford can be reached on (571) 272-6911. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Rakesh Kumar/
Examiner, Art Unit 3651

/Gene Crawford/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art
Unit 3651